

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia's Veterans Can File for Benefits at Wal-Mart

WINCHESTER—Thanks to a new pilot program, veterans in Winchester, Luray and Woodstock will be able to get benefits information and assistance with filing claims at area Wal-Marts. Rex Ingram, a benefits services representative with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, will be available at the following Wal-Mart stores to assist veterans with filing their claims.

2nd Thursday of each month—1 to 4 p.m.

August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9,
December 14

Wal-Mart Super Center
501 Wal-Mart Drive
Winchester, VA 22603

3rd Thursday of each month—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16,
December 21

Wal-Mart Super Center
1036 U.S. Highway 211 West
Luray, VA 22835

Fourth Thursday of each month—1 to 4 p.m.

August 24, September 28, October 26, December 28

Wal-Mart Super Center
461 West Reservoir Road
Woodstock, VA 22664

“I’m really excited to be set up in the Wal-Mart stores,” said Ingram. “I’ve gotten great response from the shoppers and given out lots of information.”

The Department of Veterans Services has a permanent office at 11A Water Street in Front Royal. However, Department staff also visit temporary sites weekly. In addition to her Wal-Mart visits, Ingram sets up on the first Thursday of every month, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Veterans Affairs Medical Clinic, 100 Hyde Court, in Stephens City.

Benefits service representatives, like Ingram, work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state and federal level. These representatives help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury that was incurred or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions that are due to a service connection. "For example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange should file a claim to obtain assistance in treating their diabetes," explained Ingram.

DVS representatives also assist with a multitude of other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows pensions, dependents education, veteran home loans and death benefit claims. "Basically, we're advocates for veterans. We help them with their paperwork, we track the claim with the VA, and we represent them if they need to appeal a claim," said Ingram.

Statewide, the Department of Veterans Services operates 19 benefits offices where veterans can work with representatives like Ingram. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency also operates the Veterans Care Center in Roanoke. A second care center is under construction in Richmond. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center is slated to open in May 2007.

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